

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

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AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

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S E C R E T STATE 217449

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, EEC, BE

SUBJECT: US/EC NINE DRAFT DECLARATION: NEXT STEPS

REF: BRUSSELS 6216

1. WE CONCUR WITH DAVIGNON'S SUGGESTION THAT IT WOULD BE GOOD IDEA TO GIVE EC POLITICAL DIRECTORS SOME IDEA OF OUR VIEWS ON MIDDLE EAST PRIOR TO THEIR MEETING ON THIS SUBJECT NOVEMBER 5-6. POSTS SHOULD APPROACH THEIR RESPECTIVE DG'S AND CONVEY FOLLOWING.

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2. US WANTS TO REMAIN IN CONTINUING CLOSE CONTACT WITH EC DIRECTORS ON MIDDLE EAST AS PRESENT VERY FLUID SITUATION DEVELOPS. WE WILL BE INTERESTED IN EC VIEWS AT ALL TIMES. WE HOPE THAT THROUGH REGULAR CONSULTATIONS WITH US EC CAN

PLAY IMPORTANT ROLE SUPPORTIVE OF OUR EFFORTS TO GET NEGOTIATIONS UNDERWAY AMONG PARTIES AIMING AT FUNDAMENTAL PEACE SETTLEMENT IN AREA, OBJECTIVE WHICH WE ALL SEEK.

3. AS DIRECTORS ARE AWARE, PRESIDENT AND SECRETARY KISSINGER IN LAST FEW DAYS HAVE HELD PROLONGED DISCUSSIONS WITH NEWLY-APPOINTED EGYPTIAN FOREIGN MINISTER FAHMY AND WITH MRS. MEIR. WE HAVE ALSO-TALKED WITH SYRIAN DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER ISMAIL. FOCUS OF THESE DISCUSSIONS HAS BEEN ON IMMEDIATE PROBLEM OF STABILIZING CEASEFIRE SO THAT ALL

CAN THEN DIRECT ATTENTION TO BEST WAY OF GETTING NEGOTIATIONS STARTED. WE WERE INSTRUMENTAL IN ARRANGING FOR RELIEF CONVOY TO TRAPPED EGYPTIAN III CORPS ON EAST SIDE OF CANAL BECAUSE WE BELIEVED THAT STATUS OF THIS SIZABLE FORCE SO LONG AS IT REMAINED MILITARILY PRECARIOUS, WOULD FURTHER ENCUMBER PROBLEM OF GETTING PEACE NEGOTIATIONS UNDERWAY. EGYPTIANS ARE ANXIOUS TO SEE ISRAELIS RETURN TO POSITIONS OF OCTOBER 22, WHEN FIRST CEASEFIRE ORDER WENT INTO EFFECT.

ISRAELIS, FOR THEIR PART, ARE GREATLY CONCERNED OVER EGYPT'S UNWILLINGNESS THUS FAR TO AGREE TO EARLY AND TOTAL POW EXCHANGE. DURING SECRETARY'S DISCUSSIONS IN MOSCOW, SOVIETS ASSURED US THEY WOULD PRESS FOR A PROMPT POW EXCHANGE AFTER CEASEFIRE.

4. PURPOSE OF SECRETARY'S TRIP WILL BE TO HELP STABILIZE CEASEFIRE AND EXPLORE WITH THESE GOVERNMENTS HOW NEGOTIATIONS ON PEACE SETTLEMENT CAN BEGIN. WE WANT TO MOVE AS QUICKLY AS FEASIBLE IN GETTING PARTIES INTO ACTIVE NEGOTIATIONS SO AS TO MAINTAIN MOMENTUM AND HAVE PARTIES TALKING BEFORE ATTITUDES HARDEN INTO THEIR OLD MOLDS. THERE WILL ALSO BE SOME OPPORTUNITY TO EXPLORE SUBSTANTIVE ISSUE OF A PEACE SETTLEMENT. WE BELIEVE IT IS IMPORTANT
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THAT PARTIES THEMSELVES DEVELOP NEGOTIATING POSITIONS RATHER THAN LOOKING TO OTHERS TO DO SO, AND THAT THEY AVOID PUTTING FORTH ANY SUBSTANTIVE PRECONDITIONS TO GETTING NEGOTIATIONS STARTED.

5. US HAS EXPRESSED ITSELF AS WILLING TO JOIN WITH SOVIET UNION IN GETTING NEGOTIATIONS STARTED UNDER JOINT AUSPICES. WE BELIEVE WE HAVE NEW OPPORTUNITY TO HELP PARTIES ACHIEVE FUNDAMENTAL PEACE SETTLEMENT. WE ARE INTERESTED IN FUNDAMENTAL RESOLUTION OF ISSUES THAT HAVE PRODUCED THIS LATEST OUTBREAK OF WAR, NOT IN MERE RESPITE BETWEEN WARS. US INTENDS TO REMAIN ENGAGED IN THIS EFFORT ON ACTIVE AND CONTINUING BASIS. KISSINGER

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